



File Code: 1950

Date: **JUL 03 2014**

Dear Interested Parties:

Thank you for your interest in the Greater Sage-grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (Bi-state sage-grouse) Forest Plan Amendment Project. The forest recently completed a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Revised DEIS) for the project. The Revised DEIS will be available for public review and comment for 90 days following publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

The Revised DEIS was developed in response to public comment seeking clarity regarding the Proposed Action's goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines. An alternative to the Proposed Action was developed that reflects recommendations made by conservation organizations in their comments on the DEIS. This new alternative includes restrictions on grazing livestock in Bi-state sage-grouse habitat and establishes a cap on new human-caused (anthropogenic) disturbance in habitat.

As with the original DEIS released for public comment in August of 2013, the proposed goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines of the Proposed Action and the new alternative would only apply to activities authorized on National Forest System lands and public lands managed by the BLM in the Bi-state habitat.

Changes between the August 2013 DEIS and the Revised DEIS:

- The goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines of the Proposed Action have been modified to provide more specificity;
- The project area was refined to remove areas that did not include Bi-state sage-grouse habitat;
- An alternative to the Proposed Action was developed that reflects recommendations made by conservation organizations in their comments on the DEIS; and,
- The analysis in Chapter Three describes how the standards and guidelines will affect future actions and how they address threats identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the October 28, 2013, proposed rule.

The Revised DEIS is subject to a 90 day comment period. After which the Forest and the cooperating agencies will consider the comments provided, update the analysis, and issue a Final



EIS and Draft Record of Decision opening an Objection Period. The proposed amendment is subject to the objection procedures of 36 CFR 219 Subpart B. (See 219.52(a)).

Both the Revised DEIS and the original DEIS are available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=40683>. The documents are also available on CD or in hard copy upon request. Comments may be submitted electronically by subscribing to our electronic mailing system (go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=40683>, and click on the "Get Connected" tab on the right).

Send written comments to Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Bi-State Revised DEIS, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV, 89431, or fax comments to 775-355-5399. Questions or hard-copy Revised DEIS requests may be directed to Susan Joyce, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Natural Resources Staff Officer, at 775-355-5313.

Sincerely,



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Forest Supervisor